Purchase Agreement with Private Oil Refineries

407. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies entered into a purchasing agreement with private oil refineries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation had proposed agreements with Reliance Petroleum Limited and Essar Oil Limited in regard to the marketing of controlled products of their refineries for Government approval. The proposal was examined by the Government and IOC was asked to effect certain changes in the agreements including sharing of the controlled products among the public sector oil companies viz. IOC, BPC & HPC, etc. The agreements have not yet been signed.

Investment by IOC to participate in share swap in petroleum sector

408. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much fund is proposed to be spent by the Indian Oil Company and other major oil companies to participate in share swaps in the petroleum sector with other PSUs; and

(b) whether such investment in cross holdings of shares will not affect the expansion plans of the oil companies in respect of pipe lines, refinery capacity and provision of cleaner fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL" GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) proposals are as under:

Company	Amount (approx.) (Rs. Crore)
Indian Oil Corporation	2568.66
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation	1642.03
Gas Authority of India Ltd.	500.00
TOTAL	4710.69

(b) No, Sir.

Investment by Oil Companies to buy oilfields Abroad

409. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IOC and the ONGC are planning to buy up oilfields abroad;

(b) if so, the amount of investment likely to be made in such purchases in the coming fiscal year;

(c) whether the companies have computed the unit cost of crude to be made available out of these oilfields after taking into account the capital and operational costs; and

(d) if so, what the computed costs per barrel are?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Acquisition of equity oil abroad is one of the objective pursued by the two companies.

(b) and (c) The specific investment proposals would depend on size of opportunity, its possible potential, availability of infrastructure and other operational aspects. The cost cannot be

worked out in advance as it depends upon several factors as listed above.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

Allotment of Petrol Retail Outlets to SC/ST in North-East

410. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets advertised for allotment to SCs/STs in North-east Region during the last three years;

(b) whether these retail outlets have been allotted to SC/ST persons during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the norms laid down by Government for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the last three years i.e. 96-97, 97-98 and 98-99 (Apr. '98-Jan. '99), oil companies have advertised 16 retail outlet dealerships for Schedule Tribes in the North-Eastern Region. Selection for these dealerships has not yet been held.

(d) As per existing policy for allotment of dealerships/distributorships, locations included in the approved marketing plans are advertised by the Oil Companies inviting applications from persons meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualifications, residence, income, etc. Selection of eligible candidates is made by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit. Reservation for different social objective categories is provided as under :-

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCST)	- 25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	- 5%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	- 8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	- 8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	- 2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	- 2%
Open (O)	. 50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/ distributorships in all the categories mentioned above reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal, Umarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others.

In the North Eastern Region keeping in view the predominance of ST population, higher percentage of reservation has been provided for 'ST' category in 4 States the details of which are given below:

	ST (Percentage)
Arunachal Pradesh	70
Meghalaya	80
Nagaland Mizoram	80
	90

Network of Kerosene and LPG Supplies in Eastern U.P.

411. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the network of kerosene oil and LPG supplies in eastern part of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some proposals in this regard are pending for the district Sultanpur and Faizabad in U.P.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delays?